

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

29 JULY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. France

a. The French plan to carry out three or four underground nuclear tests in the Sahara this fall.

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d. De Gaulle will probably have something to say on this at his press conference later today.

2. Pakistan-China

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3. South Vietnam

a. Saigon is alive with talk of a big Buddhist demonstration tomorrow.

b. Word has gone out from the main Buddhist temple that the faithful should drop their work and join in the demonstration. Another self-sacrifice may be in the day's events.

c. This could be the "one big wingding" that Ambassador Nolting says the Buddhists want to try before sitting down again with government negotiators.

d. Vietnamese leaders have been telling Nolting that they will not use repressive measures on the Buddhists, but we are not at all sure that the security forces in the streets will live up to the government's resolve.

4. Syria

a. The emergence over the weekend of General Hafiz as Syria's new strongman puts the government in the hands of men who prefer extreme solutions of the country's problems.

b. Hafiz was the chief architect of the bloody suppression of pro-Nasir and anti-Baath elements following the 18 July coup attempt.

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c. Premier Bitar may be the next to go.

d. Cairo will not like all this and may well redouble its efforts to upset the Baath. The weekend's developments have not, however, improved its chances.

5. Cuba

a. The Cubans continue to talk up revolution in Latin America. Fidel Castro told his 26 July audience, which included 200-300 visitors from elsewhere in Latin America, that revolution in the area was "inevitable" and that Cuba would be the main source of inspiration and guidance.

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c. Conakry is under heavy Soviet pressure to reverse its decision to deny landing rights in Guinea for the regular weekly TU-114 flight from Moscow to Havana. The Soviets now say they will provide their own fuel, thus undercutting the Guinean argument that the flights were impractical because US-supplied fuel could not be used. It will take Soviets several months to build up the necessary stocks, however.

NOTES

A. Italy The Christian Democrats meet today and are expected to give party Secretary General Moro a renewed vote of confidence and a mandate to resume his attempt to form a coalition with the Nenni Socialists if that party emerges from its October Congress prepared to talk. We hear that the Christian Democrats are "almost bankrupt" and in no shape to face another election.

B. Burma

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C. Haiti Anti-Duvalier activity continues.

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